
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 18, 2018



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

GOVERNOR'S EMPOWER RURAL IOWA INITIATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Governor Kim Reynolds signed Executive Order [No. 3](#) on July 18, 2018, creating the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative. The Initiative is intended to identify legislative, regulatory, and policy ideas designed to increase opportunities and quality of life throughout rural Iowa.

The Order included the following task forces:

- The Investing in Rural Iowa Task Force focused its recommendations on improving access to quality housing in rural Iowa.
- The Growing Rural Iowa Task Force focused on identifying ways to encourage leadership development and strategic development in rural communities.
- The Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force looked into effectively and sustainably financing connectivity.

The Governor has received the initial recommendations from the three task forces. Specific task force recommendations include:

Investing in Rural Iowa Task Force

- Assist rural Iowa communities in obtaining housing needs assessments.
- Reform the Workforce Housing Tax Credit to make it more competitive and dedicate additional resources to the rural set-aside.

Growing Rural Iowa Task Force

- Create an Empowered Rural Communities Recognition Program.
- Create leadership pathways for recognized empowered rural communities.

Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force

- Optimize the existing Broadband Grant Program to ensure State funding stretches as far as possible.
- Identify a consistent source of funding for the Broadband Grant Program.

Information about the Initiative can be found [here](#), and the complete list of the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative initial recommendations can be found [here](#).

LSA Staff Contact: Ron Robinson (515.281.6256) ron.robinson@legis.iowa.gov

1022769